

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): Method of treatment by carboxylation, before shaping, of a metal surface ~~chosen from amongst zinc, iron, aluminium, copper, lead, and alloys thereof as well as galvanised, aluminium-coated, copper-coated steels, in oxidising~~oxidizing conditions in relation to the metal, comprising by bring bringing the said metal surface selected from the group consisting of zinc, iron, aluminum, copper, lead, alloys thereof, galvanized steel, aluminium-coated steel, and copper-coated steel into contact with an organic or hydro-organic aqueous bath comprising at least one organic acid in free form or in the form of salt, ~~characterised in that~~wherein:

- the said organic acid is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic or dicarboxylic acid,
- the said organic acid is in solution and/or in emulsion in the bath at a concentration greater than 0.1 mole/litre,
- the pH of the bath is acidic.

2. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~in which the~~wherein said organic acid is ~~chosen from amongst the~~a saturated monocarboxylic acids ~~acid~~ having from 5 to 16 carbon atoms.

3. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~in which the~~ wherein said organic acid is ~~chosen from amongst the~~ an unsaturated monocarboxylic ~~acids~~ acid having from 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~in which the~~ wherein said organic acid is ~~chosen from amongst the~~ a saturated dicarboxylic ~~acids~~ acid having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms.

5. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 2, ~~in which the~~ wherein said organic acid is ~~chosen from amongst~~ selected from the group consisting of hexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, octanoic acid, nonanoic acid and decanoic acid.

6. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 3, ~~in which the~~ wherein said unsaturated monocarboxylic organic acid is undecenoic acid, oleic acid or linoleic acid.

7. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 4, ~~in which the~~ wherein said saturated dicarboxylic organic acid is sebacic acid or azelaic acid.

8. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said organic acid is heptanoic acid.

9. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 8, ~~characterised in~~

~~that~~wherein the bath comprises, in addition to heptanoic acid, decanoic acid or undecenoic acid.

10. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein the organic or hydro-organic aqueous bath comprises a co-solvent ~~is chosen from amongst~~ ethanol, n-propanol, dimethylsulphoxide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, 4-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-pentanone or diacetone alcohol.

11. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 10, characterised in ~~that~~wherein the co-solvent is diacetone alcohol.

12. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein the said bath further comprises multivalent cations in the +3 oxidation state, ~~chosen from amongst the~~ of a rare earth metals-metal at a concentration greater than or equal to ~~1.10<sup>-3</sup>~~ 1 x 10<sup>-3</sup> mole/litre, ~~and~~ the pH of the bath being higher than 4.

13. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 12, characterised in ~~that~~wherein the said multivalent cation is gadolinium.

14. (currently amended): ~~Method~~The method as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein the said ~~oxidising~~ oxidizing conditions are obtained by addition to the bath of a chemical agent adapted to the metal to be treated.

15. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said ~~oxidising~~ oxidizing conditions are obtained by causing an electric current to circulate between the said surface previously immersed in the bath and at least one backing electrode which has been likewise immersed.

16. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the concentration of organic acids in the bath, the conditions of use of the said bath and the ~~oxidising~~ oxidizing conditions in relation to the metal to be treated are adapted to obtain on the metal surface a carboxylation coating with a weight per unit area of between 1 and 6 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

17. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, at the end of the treatment of the said surface, a post-treatment is carried out with the aid of a bath containing multivalent cations in the +3 oxidation state, ~~chosen from amongst the~~ of a rare earth ~~metals~~ metal at a concentration greater than or equal to ~~1.10<sup>-3</sup>~~ 1 x 10<sup>-3</sup> mole/litre.

18. (currently amended): ~~Use of the~~ A method for temporary protection of a metal surface against corrosion, comprising subjecting the metal surface to the carboxylation treatment as claimed in Claim 1, for the temporary protection of the said metal surface against corrosion.

19. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ A method of producing a shaped metal sheet having a metal surface ~~chosen from amongst~~ selected from the group consisting of zinc, iron, aluminium, copper, lead, ~~and alloys, thereof as well as galvanised~~ galvanized steel, aluminium-coated steel, and copper-coated steels steel, ~~in which comprising~~ subjecting said metal sheet to ~~the~~ a carboxylation treatment of the said metal sheet ~~is carried out in accordance with as~~ claimed in Claim 1, and oiling and shaping the said treated metal sheet, ~~is oiled and it is~~ shaped.

20. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 19, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said metal sheet is made from steel coated with zinc or with a zinc alloy and ~~that it is~~ shaped by stamping.